

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00

DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01 /049 W

----- 089971

R 122107Z MAY 76

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9779

INFO USIA WASHDC

UNCLAS OTTAWA 1909

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OGEN, CN, CA

SUBJECT: CBC NATIONAL RADIO COMMENTARY ON AMABASSADOR ENDERS

STATE FOR EUR/CAN

USIA FOR IOP/M

1. FOLLOWING THE CBC NATIONAL RADIO NEWS ON MAY 12, PETER WARD, A FREELANCE JOURNALIST AND MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENTARY PRESS GALLERY, ASSESSED THE PERFORMANCE OF AMBASSADOR ENDERS. FOLLOWING IS COMPLETE TEXT OF THE COMMENTARY:

2. FORMER U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CANADA WILLIAM PORTER LEFT OTTAWA JUST BEFORE CHRISTMAS IN A BLAZE OF PUBLICITY WHICH UPSET THE CANADIAN GOVERNMENT. HIS SUCCESSOR, THOMAS ENDERS, PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS THREE MONTHS AGO. TO ASSESS MR. ENDERS' PERFORMANCE SO FAR, HERE IS PETER WARD OF THE PARLIAMENTARY PRESS GALLERY IN OTTAWA: "WHEN THOMAS ENDERS CAME TO CANADA AS US AMBASSADOR, HE MADE IT PLAIN THAT HE INTENDED TO MAINTAIN A HIGH PROFILE. WHEN A MAN WHO STANDS 6'8 IN HIS STOCKING FEET MAKES A PROMISE LIKE THAT, HE'S OFF TO A CHUCKLING GOOD START. ENDERS HAS MADE TWO MAJOR SPEECHES SINCE HE CAME TO OTTAWA, ONE TO THE MEN'S CANADIAN CLUB IN THE CAPITAL ON MARCH 23, AND ONE TO TORONTO'S EMPIRE CLUB ON APRIL THE 29TH. IN BOTH SPEECHES HE SAID THINGS VERY SIMILAR TO THE REMARKS WHICH GOT FORMER AMBASSADOR WILLIAM J. PORTER INTO SO MUCH HOT WATER WITH THE TRUDEAU GOVERNMENT JUST UNCLASSIFIED

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BEFORE CHRISTMAS. ENDERS WILL LIKELY BE DISHING OUT MORE OF THE

SAME TODAY WHEN HE SPEAKS IN WINNIPEG WITH THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS FOR THE ORGANIZATION'S ANNUAL MEETING ON CANADIAN-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

"ENDERS' SPEECHES AREN'T RUFFLING AS MANY FEATHERS IN OTTAWA FOR SEVERAL REASONS. FIRST, PORTER BROKE THE ICE WHEN HE HAD THAT PRE-CHRISTMAS FIRESIDE CHAT WITH NEWSMEN; SECOND, ENDERS IS USING MUCH MORE DIPLOMATIC LANGUAGE THAN DID PORTER.

"IN HIS MARCH OTTAWA SPEECH ENDERS TOUCHED THE SAME SUBJECTS OF DISAGREEMENTS BETWEEN CANADA AND THE U.S. AS WILLIAM PORTER DID, AND HE WAS TOUGHER. PORTER SAID HE WAS CONCERNED THAT ANTI-CANADIANISM IN THE UNITED STATES MIGHT BE USED IN THE COMING PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION CAMPAIGN. ENDERS TOLD HIS OTTAWA AUDIENCE THAT THE DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES WERE LARGELY BECAUSE OF ACTIONS TAKEN BY CANADIANS. HE ALSO TALKED ABOUT THE END OF THE "SPECIAL RELATIONSHIP" BETWEEN OTTAWA AND WASHINGTON, LETTING CANADIANS KNOW THAT FROM NOW ON THEY'LL BE TREATED LIKE ANY OTHER FOREIGN POWER WHEN BARGAINING WITH THE UNITED STATES.

"IN TORONTO ENDERS HAD MUCH THE SAME KIND OF MESSAGE SLANTED MORE TOWARDS ECONOMICS, WHICH WAS HIS SPECIALTY FOR TWO YEARS IN WASHINGTON BEFORE HE CAME TO OTTAWA.

"TWO WEEKS AGO A GROUP OF 15 UNITED STATES REPUBLICAN CONGRESSMEN ISSUED A STATEMENT ABOUT DETERIORATING CANADIAN -US RELATIONS, SUGGESTING AN ANNUAL MEETING BETWEEN THE US PRESIDENT AND THE CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER. THEY WANTED PRIME MINISTER TRUDEAU TO ADDRESS A JOINT SESSION OF CONGRESS. EXTERNAL AFFAIRS MINISTER ALLEN MACEACHEN FELT STRONGLY ENOUGH ABOUT THE MESSAGE FROM THOSE US CONGRESSMEN THAT HE HELD A SPECIAL PRESS CONFERENCE TO SAY THAT ALL WAS SWEETNESS AND LIGHT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

"THAT'S WHAT OTTAWA KEPT SAYING, TOO, AFTER WILLIAM PORTER SPOKE OUT CLAIMING WITH STATE DEPARTMENT AUTHORIZATION THAT THERE WERE AREAS WHICH NEEDED ATTENTION. THOMAS ENDERS IS REPEATING THE MESSAGE- SURE WE'RE FRIENDS BUT THERE ARE PROBLEMS AND THERE ARE MISUNDERSTANDINGS WHICH SHOULD BE AIRED MUCH MORE THOROUGHLY.

"THAT'S THE MESSAGE THOMAS ENDERS IS PRESENTING IN HIS PUBLIC APPEARANCES, AND IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE HE RECEIVES A PUBLICITY PROFILE AT LEAST AS HIGH AS HIS PHYSICAL 6'8 PROFILE."

3. COMMENT: WARD IS A RESPECTED NATIONAL FREELANCE POLITICAL COMMENTATOR WHO WRITES REGULARLY FOR PAPERS IN THE UNITED STATES. HE IS GIVEN TO OBJECTIVE DISPASSIONATE
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ANALYSIS. HE IS, THOUGH, VERY MUCH A DEFENDER OF CANADIAN INTERESTS AND HAS NOT IN THE PAST HESITATED TO CRITICIZE US ACTIONS WHERE HE HAS FELT LEGITIMATE CANADIAN INTERESTS TO BE UNFAIRLY JEOPARDIZED.
ENDERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRESS COMMENTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 MAY 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976OTTAWA01909
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760184-0927
From: OTTAWA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760563/aaaacbqq.tel
Line Count: 112
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CollinP0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 JUN 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 JUN 2004 by wolfsd>; APPROVED <25 JAN 2005 by CollinP0>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: CBC NATIONAL RADIO COMMENTARY ON AMABASSADOR ENDERS STATE FOR EUR/CAN
TAGS: OGEN, PDIP, CN, CA, CBC, (PORTER, WILLIAM)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006